

Annex 1)

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR PhD PROGRAMMES “PEGASO” - 41th CYCLE
with administrative headquarters
at the University of Florence¹**

D.R. rep. no. 799/2025 prot. no. 147595 of 8 July 2025

**DEADLINE: 7 August 2025
12 noon (Italian time)***

* the enrolment service stops automatically at the time stated above, and applicants are therefore advised to start the procedure well in advance so that it can be completed by the deadline

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

Disclaimer

The official and legally binding announcement is the Italian one available [here](#). The present document cannot be used for legal purposes and it is only meant to provide information in English on the call for applications.

¹ The "Pegaso" PhD programmes are partly funded by resources from PR ESF 2021/27 within the framework of Giovanisì (www.giovanisi.it), the Regione Toscana project to help young people become independent.

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Art. 1 - SUBJECT

1. This call governs the procedures for admission to the 40th cycle PhD programmes with administrative headquarters at the University of Florence. Pegaso Scholarships are funded by the Regione Toscana using PR FSE 2021/27 resources within the framework of Giovani (www.giovanisi.it), the Regione Toscana project to help young people become independent.
2. Pursuant to M.D. No. 226/2021, doctoral programmes may be activated upon accreditation or verification that accreditation requirements are maintained by the Ministry of University and Research (MUR). Therefore, winners will only be able to register following the successful outcome of this verification.
3. The duration of the doctoral programme is three years, with a planned start date of 1 November 2025.
4. By submitting the application in accordance with the procedures set out in article 6, applicants implicitly accept the regulations contained herein.
5. All communications to applicants regarding this call will be sent by e-mail. The e-mail address given by the candidate in the application will be used for this purpose. The administration is not responsible for the non-receipt of communications due to incorrect contact information or failure or late notification of changes to the contact details indicated in the application, nor for any issues attributable to third parties, chance, or force majeure.
6. The use, in this notice, of the masculine gender has no discriminatory character but, understood as gender-neutral, responds only to needs of more immediate communication.

Art. 2 - NUMBER OF POSITIONS AVAILABLE

1. The available positions and scholarships, research topics, including set research topics, any reserved positions, positions without scholarship, study and research periods abroad (in any case not less than three months) and the procedures for the admission tests are indicated in the individual doctoral programme factsheets in Annex 2, an integral part of this call.
2. Positions with scholarship funded by external bodies, public or private, will be awarded only upon the transfer of funds to the University of Florence.
3. Winners of set-topic scholarships are required to conduct doctoral research on a specific topic indicated in the programme outline.
4. For doctoral programmes that do not make positions available without a scholarship, successful candidates cannot enrol in the PhD programme by forfeiting the scholarship award.
5. Where provided for by individual doctoral programmes positions without a scholarship may be assigned following the order in the final ranking and only upon acceptance of the scholarship by successful candidates.
6. The number of available positions, shown in the aforementioned Annex 2, may be increased if additional scholarships become available.
7. Notice of the increase in the number of positions shall be posted on the University's

website at the page **Cycle 41 - Call for Applications**. It is understood that the possible increase of positions made available for the competitive examination does not mean that the application deadline is extended.

Art. 3 - ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Those who hold one of the following academic qualifications at the deadline of the call may apply for the competition, without age or citizenship limitations:
 - master's degree awarded in accordance with Ministerial Decree 270/2004;
 - master's degree awarded in accordance with Ministerial Decree 509/1999;
 - degree awarded under the educational systems prior to Ministerial Decree 509/1999, the legal course of which has a duration of at least four years;
 - second-level academic degree awarded by institutions that are part of the AFAM (Higher Education Institutes in the Arts and Music) sector;
 - academic qualification from foreign universities equivalent to the Italian degree required for admission.
2. Those who will be awarded one of the above degrees by the start date of the programme are also eligible to apply. These candidates are admitted with reserve and it is their duty to send a self-certificate of the awarding of the academic qualification to the Doctoral Office (dottorato@unifi.it) within 10 days of the award date. Failure to submit the above self-certificate by the specified deadline will result in exclusion from the competition.
3. Failure to hold an academic qualification as specified in the preceding paragraphs will result in exclusion from the competition.

Art. 4 - PEGASO SCHOLARSHIPS 2025

1. In order to be awarded a Regione Toscana "Pegaso Doctoral Scholarship 2025", applicants must meet the following additional requirements:
 - they must be less than 35 years old at the time of submitting the application for admission to the competition;
 - they must have adequate knowledge of the English language (equivalent to level B2).
2. At the time of enrollment, successful candidates must also formally declare that they will undertake to:
 - complete study and research periods abroad for at least 6 months within the three-year duration of the programme (at least 12 months for international scholarship recipients), except for recipients of a scholarship for research on a specific topic that does not foresee a stay abroad. Failure to complete the stay abroad may result in forfeiture of the entire scholarship;
 - complete at least 3 months of training/research in an applied setting, such as a company, public research organization or other public (non-university) institution in the case of a scholarship for research on a specific topic. Failure to carry out this training/research may result in forfeiture of the entire scholarship;

- attend courses for the acquisition of soft skills and knowledge about business and research world, which will be offered during the three-year doctoral programme.
- 3. Pegaso scholarships recipients must also comply with the provisions established by the Notice of the Tuscany Region, issued by managerial decree 2562 on February 5, 2025. Pegaso scholarship recipients cannot benefit, for the entire duration of the doctoral programme, from funding provided by the European Union under any title (so-called "double funding" prohibition pursuant to Article 9 of EU Regulation 2021/241).
- 4. Pegaso scholarships are funded using PR ESF 2021/27 resources and fall within the framework of Giovanisì (giovanisì.it), the Regione Toscana project to help young people become independent.

Art. 5 - RESERVED POSITIONS

1. Applicants who have obtained the degree required for admission to the doctoral programme from foreign universities, or scholarship holders from foreign states or specific international mobility programmes, may be eligible for a reservation of positions for certain doctoral programmes listed in Annex 2. In this case, different arrangements may be made for the admission procedure and a separate ranking shall be established. Unallocated reserved positions may be made available for the ordinary ranking.
2. Candidates competing for reserved positions may not compete for other positions.

Art. 6 - APPLICATION

1. The application for admission must be submitted through the online application procedure only starting on 8 July 2025 and no later than 12 noon on 7 August 2025.
2. For the methods of completing and submitting the application, refer to the guide available at the page **Cycle 41 - Call for Applications**.
3. In summary, the candidate must:
 - access the **GSC - Student Career Management system**;
 - select the chosen doctoral programme and the related competition from the menu > Secretariat > Admission Competitions > PhD Courses (M.D. 226/2021)> competition. The competition is identified by a code corresponding to that of the programme sheet;
 - proceed with completing the application by entering the required information and documentation (in .pdf/ and .pdf/A format) following the guided procedure, which also includes payment of the admission fee of €30 via the PagoPA system;
4. Payment must be made after closing the application and according to the online procedure instructions. The payment receipt must be included in the required documentation for participation, under penalty of exclusion, by 11:59 PM on the deadline day of the call.
5. Under no circumstances can the fee be refunded. The candidate will be considered duly enrolled and thus admitted to the competition only after completing payment.

6. If the candidate intends to apply for multiple rankings within the same programme (identified as "competitions" within the online application procedure), they will be required to pay only one fee, inserting the corresponding receipt in the required documentation for participation. If the candidate intends to apply for multiple doctoral programs, they must pay as many fees as the number of programs.
7. Applicants with disabilities or learning difficulties must attach to the application specialist documentation attesting to the disability and specify any aid needed.
8. Documentation must be complete and contain all elements necessary for evaluation.
9. For programmes in which the interview is conducted in person, candidates may choose to use videoconferencing for the interview. This option is available only at the time of application.
10. Once "closed" the online application cannot be modified, nor can it be supplemented with additional documentation. If they wish, respecting the deadline of the call for applications, applicants may submit a new application after requesting cancellation of the previous one by writing to dottorato@unifi.it.
11. It is in the interest of applicants to complete the application, including payment of the admission fee, well in advance of the deadline. For applications closing at 12:00 noon on 7 August 2025, payments made by 11:59 p.m. of the same day will be considered valid. It is incumbent on the candidate to verify that the procedure has been completed correctly.

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| Art. 7 - ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AWARDED ABROAD |
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1. Applicants with foreign academic degrees (equivalent to a master's degree) may apply for admission by attaching the qualifications obtained, accompanied by their translation into Italian or English, even a translation completed personally and under their own responsibility. Such candidates are admitted to the competition with reservation and will be excluded from the competition, or, if they pass it, from the doctoral programme in which they are enrolled if it turns out, upon verification, that the degree does not comply with the requirements of this notice and does not, therefore, allow enrolment in the doctoral programme.
2. The academic degree awarded abroad must be comparable in duration, level and subject area to an Italian second-level academic degree. The suitability of foreign degrees not already recognized under current regulations is ascertained by the Doctoral Admissions Board for the sole purpose of taking part in the admissions procedure, in compliance with the relevant regulations in force in Italy and in the country where the degree was awarded, as well as with international Treaties or Agreements on the recognition of degrees for the pursuit of studies. Candidates whose qualification obtained abroad is not suitable for access to the doctoral programme shall be excluded from the competition.
3. By the beginning of the programme, however, the translated degrees, legalized in Italian and accompanied by a "Dichiarazione di valore in loco" (declaration of value) issued by the competent Italian Representations of the country in which the degree was obtained, or else the [Statements of comparability and verification of the foreign university degree](#) issued by the ENIC-NARIC center in Italy (CIMEA) containing all the information required to evaluate the degree, must be delivered to the PhD Office together with the

application form. For academic qualifications obtained in a country of the European Union, a *diploma supplement* will suffice.

4. For the purpose of entry into Italy, citizens of non-EU states residing abroad must register on the [University](#) portal and apply for an entry visa (type D postgraduate visa) at the appropriate Italian Embassy or Consulate.

Art. 8 - SUPERNUMERARY ADMISSION

1. Those holding a degree evaluated as suitable for admission to the PhD programme by the Academic Board ("collegio dei docenti del dottorato"), nationals of non-European Union states holding scholarships awarded by the Italian government or national and international institutions and recipients of research scholarships funded by the European Union or other European or international scientific institutions may be admitted over and above the prescribed number, subject to submitting an application for admission. The Academic Board decides on admission.
2. Those who have already been selected within the framework of European Union research programmes or other international cooperation programmes but did not apply for admission within the terms established by the notice, may still request enrolment and be admitted to the doctoral programme over and above the prescribed number. Enrolment is in any case subject to verification of the qualifications held and to the prior approval of the Academic Board; which in the case of candidates holding a qualification awarded abroad, decides on the suitability of said qualification.

Art. 9 - ADMISSION PROCEDURE

1. Admission to doctoral programs is granted upon passing the admission exam, which assesses, through an appropriate comparative evaluation, the candidate's acquired basic preparation, ability, and aptitude for scientific research.
2. The admission exam includes an evaluation of qualifications and the research project, followed by an interview conducted either in person or via videoconference, using the most common telematic applications. The forms in Annex 2 show, for each of the Programmes, the procedures for the in-person or online interview, and any useful information for admission purposes.
3. The Admission Board shall carry out a preliminary selection on the basis of the qualifications and the project submitted by the candidate. Candidates who pass the preliminary selection by obtaining at least the minimum score indicated in the programme factsheet are admitted to the interview.
4. The interview may be conducted in one of the foreign languages specified in the doctoral programme, if any, and may include assessment of proficiency in one or more foreign languages and in Italian for foreign nationals.

Art. 10 - INTERVIEW

1. Candidates for doctoral programmes that allow for the online interview (by videocall) or those who have chosen to take advantage of this option by indicating it in the application for must ensure the availability of a webcam to enable the Admissions Board to identify and view them during the interview. The Board will send the link for conducting the interview.
2. On the day and at the time set for the exam, candidates must be present at the location indicated in the programme factsheet, or, if the exam is conducted online, they must be available at the contact provided. Before starting the exam, candidates are required to identify themselves by showing a valid ID.
3. Failure to show up, failure to connect online, to present on the appointed day or time, or failure to show a valid ID, are grounds for exclusion from the selection procedure.
4. Should technical connection problems occur during the online interview, if the problem affects one or more board members, the exam shall be postponed ex officio to another date; if the problem affects the candidate, the Admissions Board may justifiably postpone the exam to another date, in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment of candidates.

Art. 11 - ADMISSION BOARDS

1. Boards for admission to doctoral programmes are appointed by the Rector, on the basis of the proposal by the relevant Academic Board, pursuant to the [University Regulations on Doctoral Programs](#) available on the University website at the page **PhD Programmes**.
2. The list of Admission Board members is available on the University website at the page **PhD courses**.
3. The Boards conduct a preliminary session, also online, to define the criteria, to evaluate the qualifications and research project submitted by the candidates, who are assigned a score that may or may not allow admission to the interview.
4. At the end of the interview, the Boards draw up the ranking list (or rankings, if separate rankings are provided for) and transmit the minutes of the meetings to the Rector, who shall approve the acts by decree.

Art. 12 - EXAMS SCHEDULE AND OUTCOME OF THE COMPETITION

1. The exams dates are indicated in the individual programme factsheets in Annex 2.
2. The list of candidates admitted to the interview will be published at the page **PhD courses** at least five days before the date of the interview itself. Such publication serves for all purposes as official notification to present.
3. The merit ranking, formulated on the basis of the total score reported by each candidate, will be published at the page **PhD courses**.
4. The lists of candidates admitted to the tests and the final rankings will indicate name, surname and the obtained score.

Art. 13 - ADMISSION TO PROGRAMMES AND ALLOCATION OF POSITIONS

1. Those suitably placed in the merit rankings are admitted to the doctoral programmes; when allocating positions without a scholarship, in the case of equal merit preference will be given to the younger applicant.
2. Should a successful candidate withdraw before the start date of the programme, the next candidate on the merit ranking list will be offered the position.
3. Those suitably placed in the ranking of more than one programme must opt for only one doctoral programme. The option must be exercised even if the candidate is a winner in more than one ranking within the same programme.
4. Winners will receive instructions on how and by what strict deadline they may accept or decline the position. The instructions, as specified in Article 1, par. 5, will be sent to the e-mail address provided in the application for the competition.
5. The criteria for awarding the different types of scholarships, including those for specific topics and with dedicated funding, are determined by the Academic Board in accordance with requirements and considering the aptitude of winners.
6. In the case of a scholarship funded by a public or private entity, the Academic Board shall consider the expressed purpose of the funding for the conduct of research, as established under the agreement.

Art. 14 - ENROLLMENT IN PROGRAMMES

1. Those who have accepted the position will receive communication containing the necessary information and forms for enrollment purposes. The enrollment procedure is finalized upon payment of the regional tax and stamp duty, following the instructions published on the university website <https://www.unifi.it/p11798.html>.
2. In case of joint attendance of the medical specialization programme and the PhD programme, pursuant to the provisions of Art. of the [University Regulations on Doctoral Programs](#), available on the University website at the page [PhD Programmes](#), enrollment in the specialization programme must be declared in the application.
3. Article 12 paragraph 5 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021 and other applicable provisions apply to civil servants admitted to doctoral programmes.

Art. 15 - REGIONAL FEE FOR ADMISSION AND PROGRAMME ATTENDANCE

1. Doctoral students are required to pay the stamp DUTY (16 euros) and the regional tax for the right to study, the amount of which, unless otherwise determined by the Region of Tuscany, is set at 140.00 euros.
2. The following individuals are not required to pay the regional fee for the right to university study:
 - the winners and eligible candidates in the ranking list to obtain the scholarship of the Regional Board for the Right to University Study
 - students with recognized disabilities (Art. 3, Paragraph 1 of Law No. 104 of 5 February 1992) or a disability of 66 percent or more;

- students who are children of incapacity pension holders (Art. 30 of Law No. 118 of 30 March 1971).
- 3. Admission to the years following the first year and the final examination is subject to verification that the regional fee has been paid.

Art. 16 - SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Scholarships are awarded as specified in article 13.
2. In the case of equal merit, preference is given to the candidate with the most disadvantaged economic situation pursuant to D.P.C.M. no. 159 of 5 December 2013, based on the Equivalent Economic Situation Indicator Statement (ISEE) valid for “prestazioni agevolate per il diritto allo studio Universitario”.
3. The scholarship is disbursed in monthly instalments in arrears; if the doctoral student withdraws from the programme, he or she loses the right to receive the scholarship from the date of withdrawal.
4. The annual amount of the scholarship is €16,243.00 (before social security charges payable by the recipient).
5. The amount of the scholarship is increased by 50% for conducting research activities abroad for a total period not exceeding twelve months. This period may be extended up to eighteen months for doctoral students under co-supervision by foreign bodies or for doctoral programs activated under a convention or consortium.
6. In addition, the doctoral student is given a budget for research in Italy and abroad, amounting to no less than 10% of the amount of the scholarship itself.
7. Scholarships funded by external entities are awarded to doctoral students subject to the successful allocation to the University of the respective financial resources and agreements between the University and the funding entities.
8. Should a student withdraw from the programme or forfeit the scholarship, the remaining portion of the latter will be assigned to the next doctoral student (if any) in the merit ranking holding a position without a scholarship.
9. If the student withdrawing is a scholarship holder receiving dedicated funding, the residual scholarship shall be transferred to the next PhD student in the ranking without a scholarship, subject to approval by the Academic Board and to the provisions of any agreement.
10. Those who have already been in receipt, of a scholarship, even in part, for attending a PhD programme cannot receive one a second time.
11. The University may not be able to disburse the scholarship to students from restricted ("embargoed") countries until they obtain a residence permit.
12. The bonus and budget referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 above are also granted to PhD students without a scholarship.

Art. 17 - ATTENDANCE AND OBLIGATIONS OF PhD STUDENTS

1. Those enrolled in doctoral programmes must attend courses full time and perform study and research activities on a continuous basis. In particular, each PhD student is required to undertake a stay abroad, the duration of which is indicated in the individual

programme factsheets, and to acquire, over the course of the three-year period, at least 6 credits by attending customized in-depth courses related to so-called "complementary skills"

2. The Academic Board may authorize the performance of paid activities that enable the PhD student to acquire skills pertaining to their doctoral field, after assessing the compatibility of such activities with the PhD programme's training, teaching and research activities.
3. The annual income, if any, from paid work must in any case not exceed the annual amount of the doctoral scholarship.
4. In the case of justified impediments that do not allow effective attendance (illness, maternity and childbirth or other serious and documented reasons), the doctoral student may request suspension of programme attendance, resulting in the interruption of the grant and extension of the training period. The suspension will be decided by the Academic Board.
5. For any further aspects related to the conduct of the PhD programme, please refer to the relevant university regulations.

Art. 18 - AWARDING OF THE DEGREE

1. The doctoral degree (PhD) is awarded after passing the final exam referred to in Art. 27 of the [University Regulations on Doctoral Programs](#) available on the University website at the page **PhD Programmes**.
2. PhD students are required to enter their doctoral thesis, in an electronic version, in the University's dedicated online repository [FLORE](#).

Art. 19 - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF RESEARCH RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS

1. Intellectual and industrial property rights to any findings of the PhD student are governed in accordance with current legislation (Copyright Law - Legislative Decree 633/1941 - and Industrial Property Code - Legislative Decree 30/2005 and its subsequent modifications), to the [Regulations for the management of industrial and intellectual property rights with reference to research activities carried out by university personnel](#) and, if necessary, according to what is established in individual agreements with universities, companies or entities involved.
2. Applicants who are awarded scholarships funded by entities outside the University acknowledge and accept the provisions regarding intellectual and industrial property contained in the agreement between the University and the funding body. The doctoral students' inalienable moral right to be recognized as authors or inventors remains intact.
3. Doctoral students are required to sign appropriate confidentiality undertakings in relation to information, data and documents of a confidential nature of which they may become aware in the course of their work at and/or on behalf of the University.
4. The Ph.D. student is, in any case, guaranteed the opportunity to carry out the normal publication activities envisaged by the programme, which must be scheduled in a manner compatible with the protection of any results.

Art. 20 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

1. Personal data pertaining to this procedure are collected and processed for the University's institutional purposes in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of EU Regulation 2016/679 - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
2. Candidates enjoy the rights provided for by the same Regulations. For more details follow the link <https://www.unifi.it/cmpro-v-p-11360.html>.

Art. 21 - PUBLICITY

1. The notice is published in the Official State Bulletin - Competitions and Exams Special Series - and, in its entirety, on the University's online noticeboard and on the at the page **Cycle 41 - Call for Applications**.
2. It is also published on the Ministry's website and the European Euraxess website.

Art. 22 - THE PROCEDURE MANAGER

1. For all purposes pertaining to this call, the Unit in charge is identified as the Area Servizi alla Didattica – Settore Dottorato di Ricerca, Piazza San Marco 4, 50121 Florence.
2. Information and clarifications on application submission can be addressed to e-mail dottorato@unifi.it or by phone at the following numbers 055 2757 309 - 668 - 671 - 681 - 682 Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Thursday from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
3. The Procedure Manager is Mrs Sabrina Pazzagli.

Art. 23 - FINAL PROVISIONS

1. Competition documents are public, to which access is permitted in the manner established by Law No. 241 of August 7, 1990.
2. For anything not expressly provided for in this announcement, please to the [University Regulations on Doctoral Programs](#) available on the University website at the page **PhD Programmes** and to the statutory, regulatory and ministerial provisions cited in the decree announcing the call for applications.
3. The University reserves the right to exclude at any time candidates who participate in the exams provided for in this call for failure to comply with the provisions given therein or the deadlines specified therein, or for failure to meet the requirements.